

5th. A scapula, apparently of the *Palæotherium*, in fine preservation; also a portion of the upper jaw with several molar teeth *in situ*.

6th. A great portion of the head of an alligator, having nearly all the upper range of teeth (42 in number) remaining, along with the humerus, dermal scutæ and other parts of the skeleton.

This fossil, I think, may be regarded as the most interesting Saurian relic yet discovered in British or continental tertiary strata. The remains were imbedded in the fine siliceous sand of which the freshwater deposit at Hordwell is chiefly composed, and with the exception of a change in colour and chemical composition, are presented to the study of the palæontologist in a state which would challenge comparison with those of any recent skeleton. Mr. Wood's discovery too constitutes I believe the *first* authentic record of the occurrence of the alligator in the fossil state. In the same deposit this gentleman found numerous scales and vertebræ of the *Lepidosteus*, a genus of fishes now associated with the alligator in the new world. Mr. Wood proposes to call the Hordwell alligator *A. Hantoniensis*.*

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Naturgetreue Abbildungen und Beschreibungen der essbaren, schädlichen und verdächtigen Schwämme. Von J. V. Krombholz. Prag, 1831–1843.

EIGHT parts of this splendid work, containing sixty-two plates, were published, when it was arrested by the death of the author in the course of last autumn. Fourteen more plates however had been engraved before the 'Epicrisis' of Fries was published in which they are quoted, and which appeared in 1836, but was some time previously in the hand of the printer. These we have obtained from Prag through the kindness of M. Corda; and we believe that the drawings from which they were made are lost together with the greater part of the specimens; there is therefore no probability of their ever being published. The work then must be considered as ending with the sixty-second plate, and we confidently recommend it as a storehouse of excellent figures which are due to the pencil of M. Corda, who is no less happy in the delineation of larger objects than in the minute forms of fungi, on which he has thrown so much light; indeed the whole execution of the work is due to him, Krombholz himself having done little more than the editorial part. The figures and dissections, it must be remembered, were made some time before the recent discoveries of the true structure of the hymenium, and at a time when M. Corda was neither so practised in the use of the microscope nor possessed of so good an instrument as at present; the analyses therefore are not what one would expect from

* It is Mr. Wood's intention shortly to publish a more detailed account of these fossils, accompanied by illustrations.

his other works, nor indeed are they always correct,—a charge which however lies at the door of almost every observer of hymenomycetous fungi at that time. The principal feature of the work however is the beauty and faithfulness of the larger figures, the analyses being a very subordinate part; and whatever reproach may be thrown on this part of the work, it is but justice to assert that no mycologist has published more faithful analyses of fungi than M. Corda. For proof we appeal not only to the uniformly increasing merit of his 'Fasciculi,' each surpassing the other in importance and skill of execution, but to ocular evidence afforded by a comparison of many of his most curious genera, such as *Dictyosporium*, *Helicostylum*, *Cladotrichum*, &c., under the microscope with the published figures, and we have not been struck more by the curious forms and structures which presented themselves than by the great accuracy of the figures. It has fallen to the lot of few to discover more novelties, and these as beautiful as singular, than to M. Corda; indeed so curious are many of them, that occasionally he has met with the fate of original thinkers and fortunate observers, and his discoveries instead of exciting admiration have been met with doubt. It was therefore with great pleasure that we received a packet of specimens, in many cases portions of the very individual figured, which have enabled us at once to do justice to the author, and to refer to the 'Fasciculi' as a repertorium of facts; and we are in some measure the more pleased to be able to do so, since we do not always agree with his views either as to genera or species, and we regard the work rather as that of an original observer than of a profound critic. We are rejoiced too to find that his labours in the study of antediluvian phytology, which will soon be given to the public, and will present the most magnificent analyses which have hitherto been published, have not drawn him off entirely from mycology, but that he has a sixth fasciculus in hand, and is preparing a new edition of his 'Introduction to Mycology,' a work which should be in the hands of every botanist. It remains only that we say of the work which has given occasion for these remarks, that though the figures are too much crowded, which takes off greatly from the general effect, and the form itself of the book, oblong folio, not accordant with English taste, some of the plates, when confined to a single species, may be compared without risk to the beautiful plates of Vittadini and Viviani, and that in most cases the figures individually are all that can be wished. As the plates are lithographed, and if, as it is probable, a few copies only were taken off, in a short time it will not be possible to procure the work from the publisher.

Histoire physique, politique et naturelle de l'Ile de Cuba. Par M. Ramon de la Sagra.

Botanique: Plantes Cellulaires. Par Camille Montagne, D.M. Paris, 1838-1842.

The distinguishing feature of this work from others of a similar description which have emanated from the study of the French *savans*, consists in the extraordinary ability and patience with which the